

2009 USPS Safe Driver Challenge Winners



May 20, 2009, First Place Award Presentation
left to right: Jim Gautney, John Kennedy

More than 43,100 motor vehicle related deaths occurred in the United States in 2007. In an effort to increase awareness of the importance of safe driving practices, the National Safety Council introduced the **2009 USPS Safe Driver Challenge**. The 9 United States Postal Service Areas competed with each other to increase participation in the National Safety Council's Safe Driver Awards Program. Each Area's participation was measured by the increased percentage of award recipients compared to the number of recipients in 2008. A minimum of a 10% increase was required to be considered for recognition. The top 3 Areas to increase participation the most received special recognition from NSC.



The challenge ran from January 1 through March 31, 2009. Components of the program that were tracked for this competition included the **Safe Driver Lapel Pins** and the **Million Mile Plaques**. Both items are covered under the agreement in place with the USPS Headquarters in Washington, D.C. and are available to every postal location free of charge.



Thanks to ALL the dedicated USPS employees this challenge was quite successful. Each of the 9 Areas put forth a great effort to achieve their goal of a 10% increase. Everyone at the US Postal Service played a crucial part in making this challenge fun and rewarding. Of course, the ultimate goal of this challenge was to motivate and encourage USPS drivers to adopt and uphold safe driving practices.

Congratulations to the top 3 Areas who exceeded their goal!
The winners of the 2009 Safe Driver Challenge are:

- 1st Place Winner – Southwest Area (exceeded goal by 99%)
- 2nd Place Winner – Great Lakes Area (exceeded goal by 44%)
- 3rd Place Winner – Eastern Area (exceeded goal by 34%)

On Wednesday, May 20, 2009, John Kennedy, *Group Vice President, Education and Programs*, of the National Safety Council presented the **First Place Safe Driver Challenge Award** to Jim Gautney, *Southwest Area Safety Manager*, in Dallas, Texas. Thanks to Mr. Gautney and the many other dedicated USPS employees in the Southwest Area, their goal was exceeded by 99% during the duration of the 2009 USPS Safe Driver Challenge. John Kennedy was extremely honored to present this award to Jim Gautney on behalf of the entire Southwest Area recognizing their outstanding achievement. Congratulations once again to the Southwest Area!

The National Safety Council extends a sincere **“Thank You”** to all of those who participated in this challenge. You truly are diligent in your quest to promote safety and reward the safe driving practices of your drivers. By motivating and rewarding your drivers, you are helping to decrease motor vehicle related incidents and deaths and ensuring that they will return home to their families safely at the end of the day.

NSC looks forward to continuing this challenge annually as a way to thank the USPS for all their hard work and dedication.